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17 FEB 1959

Colonel Harris B. Hall, USAF  
 Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence  
 Headquarters, Pacific Air Force  
 APO 953  
 San Francisco, California

Dear Harris:

Thank you for the PACAF Estimate of the Situation for 1959. Though I have some qualms about the needless duplication involved in having major headquarters writing the same kind of broad estimates that Washington turns out (with a much fuller picture at its disposal), yours seems a generally good job.

However, we question whether Peiping will "attempt recklessly to achieve its objectives even at the considerable risk of precipitating a major war" (page 2). Indeed, you say on page 5 that Peiping will be pre-occupied with major domestic problems during 1959. On the other hand, your expectation that the Commune experiment may meet widespread violent public reaction goes further than our new NIE 13-2-59 of 10 February, which I commend to you.

Your gloomy outlook on Indonesia is a bit overdrawn in the light of recent events. We still regard a communist-oriented Indonesia as a "distinct possibility," but are encouraged by the Sukarno-Djuanda-Nasution combination's apparent awareness of this threat and efforts to counter it. We are also less certain than PACAF (page 6) that rightist coups will occur in Laos and Cambodia.

On the military side, your estimates of Hloc surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missile deployments are far firmer than any we have made in NIEs, and are not supported by available evidence. The Estimate also would benefit from some discussion of nuclear weapons and the likelihood of Hloc use of them in any operations in the Far East.

Hope the above is useful, and am always happy to check our impressions against those of you who are closer to the field.

Sincerely,

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*RWK/af*  
 ODDI:RWK:kfh(16 Feb 59)

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Robert Amory, Jr.

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**HEADQUARTERS  
PACIFIC AIR FORCES  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
APO 953, San Francisco, Calif.**

**6 February 1959**

**Mr. Robert Amory, Jr.  
2430 E. Street, N. W.  
Washington 25, D. C.**

**Dear Bob:**

**Here is the PACAF Estimate of the Situation for 1959. As we revise our assessment of Asia during the coming months we will forward appropriately revised material. After you have read this Estimate I would very much appreciate your comments.**

**Sincerely,**

**HARRIS B. HULL  
Colonel, USAF  
AC/S Intelligence**